(e) if so, the names of such harmful drugs;

(f) whether the Government have banned the said harmful drugs in India also;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c) Banning of drugs is an on-going process. Based on the recommendations of experts and on the advice of the Drugs Technical Advisory Board, a statutory advisory body under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, the Government, from time to time, prohibits manufacture and sale of drugs considered ineffective/ irrational or harmful. 56 categories of drugs/durg formulations have so far been prohibited.

(d) to (h) Banning of drugs does not come under the purview of World Health Organisation. It reports about the harmful drugs in some countries. World Health Organisation are reported to have withdrawn 44 drugs from use in some countries. Of these, 26 drugs were not approved for marketing in India, 11 drugs have been withdrawn on the advice of experts and the remaining 7 drugs have been allowed for continued marketing in consultation with medical experts subject to necessary cautionary statement on the labels and package inserts.

Blood Bank

4764. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of fraud Blood Banks are running in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether blood sold by these banks was prepared by chemicals only; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent the selling of such blood and action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (d): All blood banks are required to be licenced as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules. Licences can now only be issued with the approval of the central licensing authority.

The State Government have been asked to conduct inspection of the Blood Banks in their States and to take action against the offenders under Section 27 of Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

The Supreme Court has also directed that all unlicensed Blood Banks should stop functioning after December, 1996.

[Translation]

Opening of Medical/Engineering Colleges

4765. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal under consideration for opening of medical/engineering colleges etc. at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal for setting up of any Engineering College at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi. However, a proposal has been received from said Vidyapeeth, Varanasi to establish a medical college.

[English]

Sakti-Tangyar Highway

4766. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army, as well as, the people of Nubra Valley and Durbuk area of Ladakh had been demanding for construction of Sakti-Tangyar highway via Wari-la and through the Border Road Organisation (BRO);

(b) whether it is also a fact that with the construction of the said road, frequent blockade due to snow of Khardong-la and Chang-la can be avoided thereby saving crores of rupees every year for maintaining the above two passes; and

(c) if replies to (a and (b) above are in the affirmative, whether the Government would start construction through B.R.O. of the proposed Sakti-Tangyar highway immediately to link both Nubra and Durbak area with Leh, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed road will not pass through Khardongla and Changla passes. It will be an alternative route for Khardongla and Changla.

(c) The Survey work for this road is in progress. Work will commence subject to availability of funds. The